



## ***Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter***

**Volume 6, Issue #4**

**Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC**

**26 May 2011**

### **Cotton/Soybean Insect Scouting Schools**

We will have two insect scouting schools for cotton and soybeans this year. The first will be held at the Edisto Research and Education Center (EREC) on 2 June (next week). EREC is about 2-3 miles West of Blackville, SC, on Hwy 78. The second school will be held at the Tri-County Co-op near St. Matthews, SC, on 7 June 2011. We will be offering CCA and pesticide credits for attending an entire training. Each training and lunch will be free, and there will be handouts and some giveaways available. **In order to plan for lunch, please email me ([green4@clemson.edu](mailto:green4@clemson.edu)) by 27 May (tomorrow) with how many you will be bringing to the training at EREC. Please email Charles Davis ([cdvs@clemson.edu](mailto:cdvs@clemson.edu)) by 3 June (next Friday) with how many you will be bringing to the training in St. Matthews.**

#### **Cotton/Soybean Insect Scouting School (2 June 2011)**

Edisto Research & Education Center near Blackville, SC, 64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817  
9:30 AM – 1:00 PM (Registration – Adjourn) LUNCH PROVIDED

#### **Cotton/Soybean Insect Scouting School (7 June 2011)**

Tri-County Electric Co-op near St. Matthews, SC, 6473 Old State Road, St. Matthews, SC 29135  
9:30 AM – 1:00 PM (Registration – Adjourn) LUNCH PROVIDED

### **Pest Patrol Hotline**

There is a toll-free hotline for updates on insect problems. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #3 for the Southeast and select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### **News from Above the Lakes**

Randy Cabbage, county agent covering Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties, reported that he is hearing that thrips pressure is normal in cotton, but many producers are putting an insecticide in the tank with herbicides because they are going across the field anyway. Randy also found kudzu bugs in the first patch of kudzu he checked in Kershaw County. As soybeans emerge in infested counties, we had better keep an eye on them.

### **News from Below the Lakes**

Marion Barnes, county agent in Colleton County reported yesterday that he found kudzu bugs in Hampton and Allendale Counties when passing through. Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley

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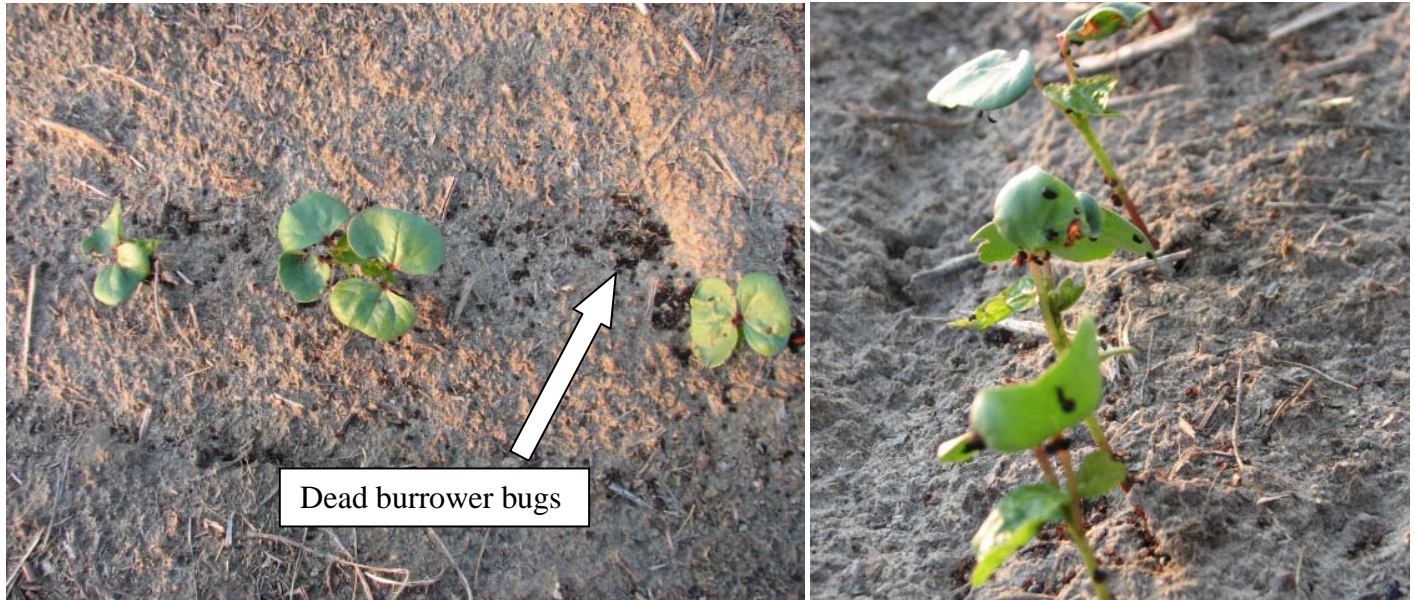
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Counties reported that he “looked at a field of cotton [yesterday] morning with a large number of burrower bugs in it. The seed were treated with Avicta and it seemed to be killing a significant amount of them. They are either dead on the plants or on the ground in large numbers and the few that were alive were in stubble not on plants. Field had no Temik at plant. Tommy Walker, agent covering Hampton and Jasper Counties, also reported about burrower bugs. Here are pictures that Jonathan took of burrower bugs on cotton seedlings:



### **News from the Piedmont/Upstate**

Jay Crouch, county agent in Newberry reported this week that he “found isolated seedling damage from sugarcane beetle in seedling cotton; thrips populations are getting high and spraying is underway. We need rain soon!” Jay also reported that “grasshopper damage is being reported [in soybeans], and levels in some spots have gotten high enough to warrant treatment. We’ve quit planting until we get a rain.” Jay has seen a lot of kudzu bugs in Newberry, Saluda, and Edgefield Counties.

### **Cotton Situation**

As of 23 May 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 75% of the crop being planted, behind where we were last year at 80% but about equal to the 5-yr average of 73%. With the cool spell definitely over, temperatures have been high all week. To go with the hot temps, the overall lack of rainfall has put much of the state in desperate need of rain. The overall soil moisture levels in the state were described as 8% very short, 40% short, 51% adequate, and 1% surplus. Conditions for cotton were reported as 0% very poor, 6% poor, 42% fair, 48% good and 4% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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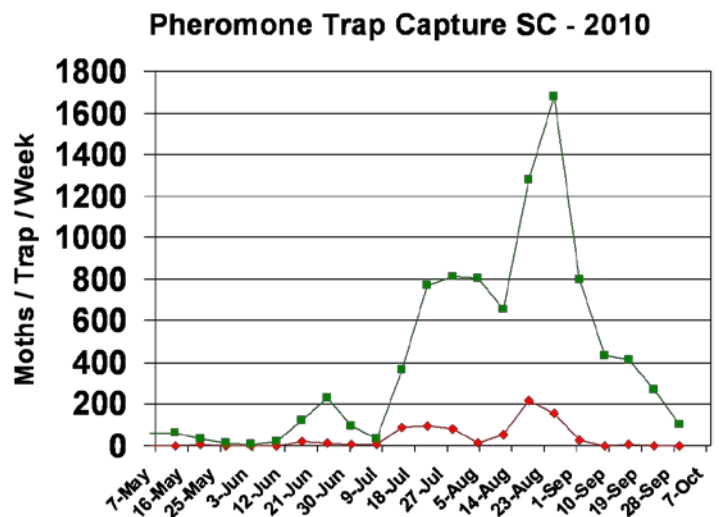
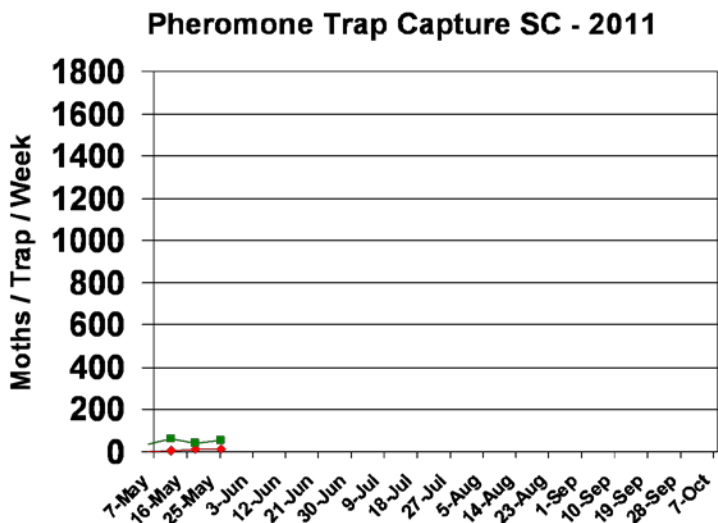
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### **Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm**



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC last season and this season are shown below. We are about where we were last year with numbers captured in traps. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



### **Cotton Insect Control Guide**

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

### **Want to Tour Cotton Incorporated?**

Tre Coleman provided the additional attached information about an opportunity to tour the facilities at Cotton Incorporated in Cary, NC, on 26-28 June. If you are interested, get your completed registration form to Monty Bain by 30 May. Monty's contact information and the registration form are attached.

### **Soybean Situation**

As of 23 May 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 54% of soybeans as planted, ahead of where we were last year at 42% and well ahead of the 5-yr average of 35%.

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About 31% of soybeans have emerged, compared with 28% last year and 18% for the 5-yr average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### **Burrower Bugs Again and Again?**

I reported about this last week, but the white-margined burrower bug, *Sehirus cinctus*, is blanketing the ground in many places. Seedling crops such as cotton and soybeans can be seriously infested with the immatures as they crawl around looking for anything on which to feed. However, the infestations are mostly scary to see, with little or no negative impacts on cotton or soybean plants with some insecticidal protection. Any at-plant insecticide, either in seed treatment or in-furrow form, will provide good kill of the insects if they feed on the plant. You can see this easily from Jonathan's photos above or from the photos below of infested MG IV soybeans (Cruiser treated) that I took this week. Notice the piles of dead bugs around the bases of the plants. With the heat and dry conditions, any additional stress on seedlings might be too much, so watch infestations to see if they are having an impact on plantings that do not have a preventative, at-plant insecticide under them. Any early-season sprays should eliminate burrower bugs; dedicated sprays for these bugs should be rare.



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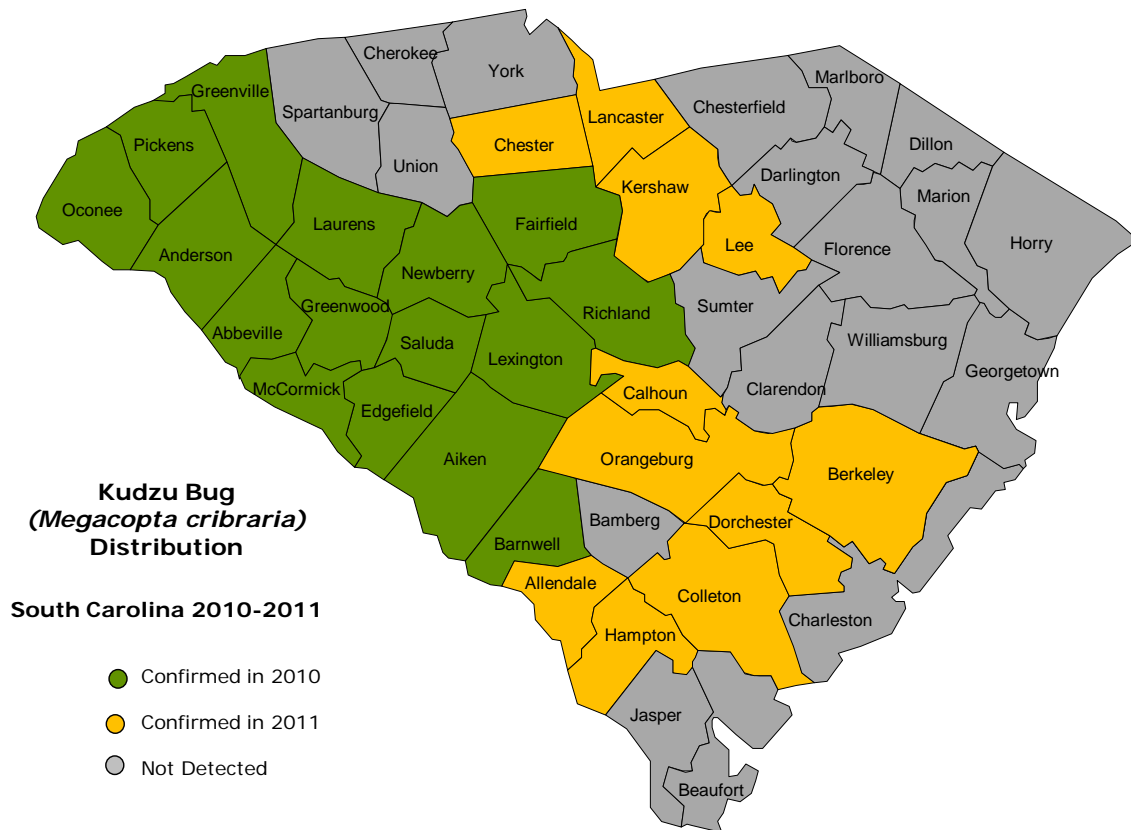
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### Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

The kudzu bug (a.k.a. bean plataspid), *Megacopta cribraria*, continues to spread in SC and the Southeast. We have it confirmed in 27 counties in SC. ***It has been found on kudzu and/or soybeans in these counties, but it will feed on legumes in general, so it could be on other hosts, and it might be present but yet to be detected in other counties.*** Any sampling assistance in unconfirmed areas will be a big help. The best place to look for these pests is in/around kudzu. If you want to help document new county finds of this pest, digital pictures or specimens preserved in alcohol are important documentation to get from infested areas. ***Please email/send that information to me only if the infestation is in SC and is a new county observation.***

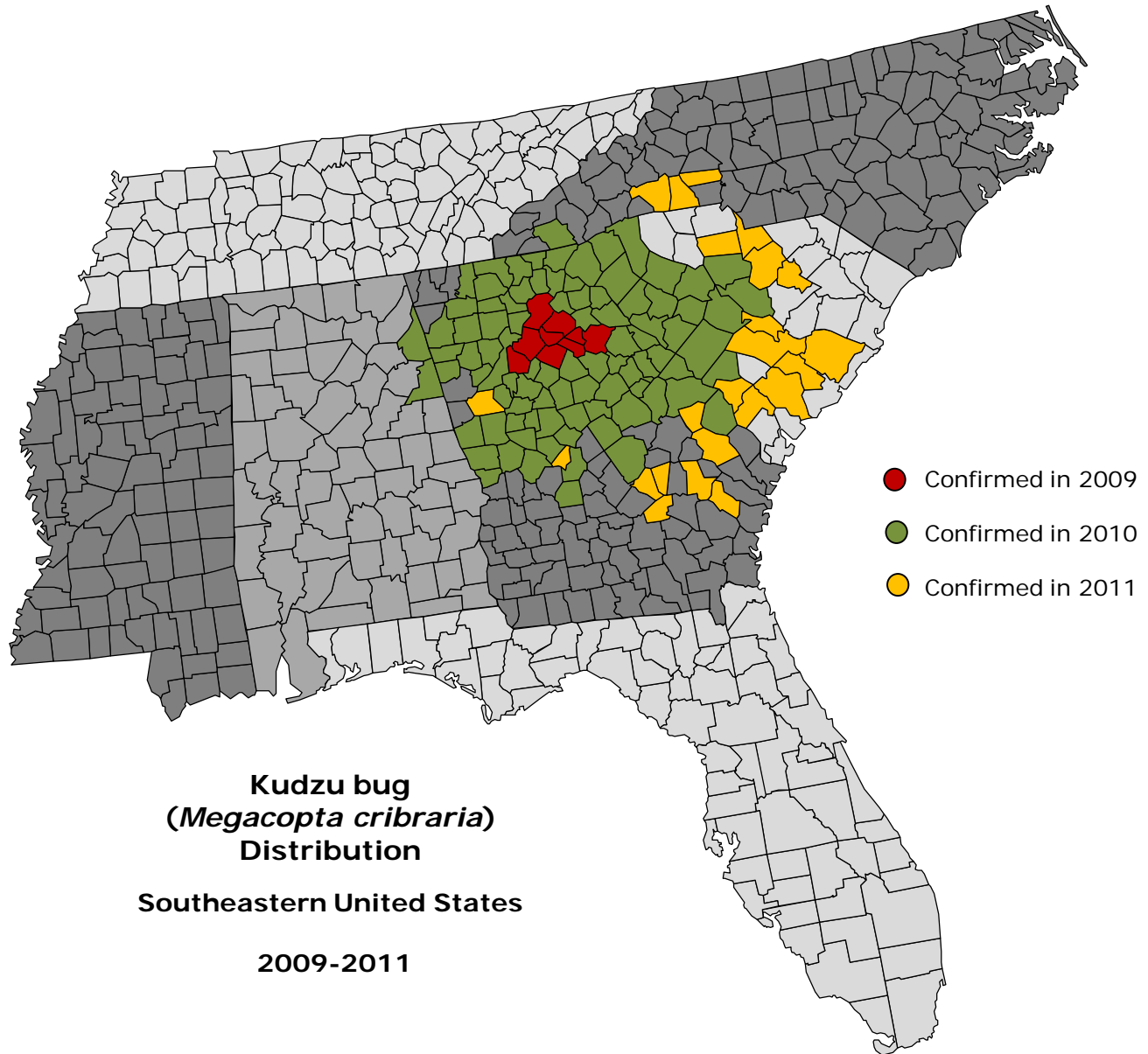


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**Kudzu bug  
(*Megacopta cribraria*)  
Distribution**

**Southeastern United States**

**2009-2011**

**Soybean Insect Control Guide**

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

**Pest Management Handbook - 2011**

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2011 Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

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### **Need More Information?**

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more cotton and soybean information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/>

For past newsletters:

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest\\_management/newsletters/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html)

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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